



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Julie Christopher, Commissioner

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Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

AND: Nutrition Directors
Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Coordinators

FROM: Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD
Program Coordinator

DATE: June 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Child Passenger Safety Law Change

Seniors who transport their grandchildren or other children in their vehicle should be aware that several changes to the child passenger safety law will go into effect July 1, 2007.

To help with the education of parents, grandparents, and caregivers, the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention is providing the attached 8 1/2 x 14 poster highlighting the new law. This flyer is being mailed to all law enforcement offices, local health departments, EMS stations, child care providers, pediatricians and DMV locations for display.

Please feel free to print out the flyer and display in your community. A downloadable handout of the complete Virginia's Child Passenger Safety Law is available in English and Spanish at the following link:

<http://www.vahealth.org/civp/safetyseat/laws.asp> .

Remember that safety belts, safety seats, and booster seats need to be used properly in order to be effective. Seniors may receive information on correct usage and free safety materials by contacting the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention at www.vahealth.org/civp or 1-800-732-8333.

Effective July 1, 2007

3 New Changes to VA Child Passenger Law

1. All children under age **eight** must be properly restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat.
2. Rear-facing child safety seats must be secured in the **back** seat of a vehicle.
3. Children can **not** ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of a vehicle.

Violations will result in a \$50 fine

Does this affect me?

The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968.

What type of safety seat should I use?

**Rear-Facing
Seat**



Birth to at least 1 year
AND
At least 20 pounds

**Forward-Facing
Seat**



Age 1 to about 4
AND
At least 20 pounds

**Backless
Booster Seat**



About age 4 to age 8
AND
Under 4-feet 9-inches tall

**High Back
Booster Seat**



What about my older children?

All children between their 8th and 16th birthday must be properly restrained by a child restraint system or a safety belt. Violations will result in a \$50 fine.

Remember...

Law enforcement officers **can and will** stop and ticket any driver of a vehicle where children under 16 years of age are not properly and safely secured.

For more information about the law or child passenger safety contact the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention
1-800-732-8333 or visit www.vahealth.org/civp.

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Department for the Aging
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau

DATE: June 26, 2007

SUBJECT: National Health Policy Forum Information

Serving primarily senior staff to the Federal Government Executive Branch and Congress, the National Health Policy Forum is a non-partisan entity that promotes informed decision making by government in health related areas. Two recent publications will prove of interest to Virginia's Aging Network.

Issue Brief 822, Trading Places: Real Choice Systems Change Grants and the Movement to Community Based Long-Term Care Supports traces the development of community-based services as opposed to institutional settings for the nation's 3.6 million seniors and younger people with disabilities who utilize Medicaid long-term care services. The brief discusses the enactment of the home and community based services (HCBS) waiver in 1981, the movement to relax Federal requirements on states trying to participate in the waiver program throughout the 1980's, the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the Olmstead v. L.C. case in 1999 as steps leading up to the current efforts to rebalance the system of care toward the provision of more community based services.

In 2001, the New Freedom Initiative launched by the Bush administration ushered in another era for promoting community living for seniors and persons with disabilities. From 2001 through 2006, Congress has appropriated funding for a number of grant programs to facilitate transitioning from institutional to community based long-term care situations. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) operated in Virginia being one of these federally funded activities. The most recent systems transformation grant awarded to Virginia is the Money Follows the Person Grant (MFP). Under the leadership of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, VDA and other agencies

will facilitate the transition of senior and disabled citizens from facilities to community based living. A Task Force of individuals from the aging and disability networks is currently developing an operational plan to implement MFP in Virginia. Ellen Nau and Molly Huffstetler from VDA are participating in the development of the operational plan. Pat Cummins of VDA is participating on a special housing committee for MFP. The issue brief concludes by outlining some of the results of the national movement to community based services and the challenges faced in the future by the system transformation.

Issue Brief No. 822 can be accessed in its entirety at <http://www.nhpf.org/>

Also available at the National Health Policy Forum website is a report on the organization's March 2007 site visit to Fairfax County Virginia. The report, **Fairfax County's Commitment: A Housing and Health Continuum for Seniors**, notes that a strong county wide integrated system of care for seniors is in place due to the county's financial resources and its Board of Supervisors' commitment to aging services. The effective role the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging plays in Fairfax County's human services administration government is mentioned in the report.